

Recap of 8/8/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 9:32-43):

- 1. In Acts 9:32-43, God is preparing His people and Peter, His Apostle, for the extension of the gospel to the Gentiles. It shows how God arranged Peter's travels to be in position to take the gospel to the Gentiles. The reach of the gospel continues to widen both geographically and spiritually, as Peter ministers in missed Jewish/Gentile areas. The miracles that Peter performs in this section of Scripture has the distinct purpose of confirming to the Church and to Peter, himself, that God was with him. This was necessary because the extension of the gospel to the Gentiles would be a huge step for the church. The miracles (healing Aeneas, raising Dorcas from the dead) authenticated Peter's ministry, and identified his ministry with Jesus and His Person and ministry.*
- 2. Sickness and death are reminders of the Fall and our need of a Savior. They illustrate the helplessness of people and the power of God over sin and its effects.*
- 3. The purpose of Apostolic miracles was to authenticate and confirm their message and to identify them with Jesus.*
- 4. The greatest miracle in this passage is not the healing of Aeneas or the raising of Dorcas, it is the salvation of many that came as a response to these miracles. As Warren Wiersbe writes: "What is the greatest miracle that God can do for us? Some would call the healing of the body God's greatest miracle, while others would vote for the raising of the dead. However, I think that the greatest miracle of all is the salvation of a lost sinner."*
- 5. "As with Aeneas, God is more concerned with gospel proclamation than the welfare of the individual recipient of the miracle....Spiritual healing and future resurrection are far more significant to the New Testament writers than physical healing and temporary resurrection." (Baker)*
- 6. Ken Gangel puts a cap on the passage this way: "...in 12 short verses, Luke shows us through Dorcas, how to exercise the gift of helps, how to serve the Lord while single,..."*